

The Sydney Morning Herald.

SYDNEY, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1886.

14 PAGES.

No. 14,997.

PRICE 2d.

Births.

CHAPLIN.—April 11, at her residence, 31, Glenview-street, Paddington, Mrs. John Chaplin, of a daughter.
GODDARD.—April 12, at her residence, 7, Ivanhoe-terrace, Waverley, Mrs. Charles E. Goddard, of a daughter.
HARRISON.—April 12, at her residence, Elizabeth-street, Ashfield, Mrs. D. B. Harrison, of a son.
HOBSON.—April 1, at her residence, Petersham, the wife of Arthur E. Hobson, of a son.
HUNWICK.—April 12, at Watson, Norwood-street, Peter Hunwick, wife of G. H. Hunwick, M.D., of a daughter.
HOOPER.—April 16, at Highbury-terrace, Camperdown-street, Stanmore, Mrs. S. Moore, of a daughter.
SMITH.—April 15, at Gommba, Molong, the wife of Wallace A. Smith, with some.
BELL.—April 15, at Blayney, the wife of Reginald G. Smith, of a daughter.
STEPHEN.—April 16, at her residence, Petersham, the wife of Arthur Stephen, of a daughter.

Marriages.

HORRIG.—LONDON.—March 29, by the Rev. Dr. Fullerton, S.A., the second son of J. Horrig, Burnt Hurst, S.A., to Selina (Lena), eldest daughter of J. T. Langdon, Ballarat, Victoria.
ORIENT PARCELS EXEMPTED FROM DUTIES.—
TWO MONTHS.—The Post Office of the Line are forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom at the following rates:—
U.S. \$1.50 weight 6d per lb. (minimum 2d 6d).
Over 10 lbs. weight 1d per lb. (minimum 2d 6d).
Stamps to be applied to letters by measurement, charging 2d 6d per cubic foot, or fraction of a foot.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—
ROYAL MAIL SERVICE.
THE following Royal Mail Steamers belonging to the
ORIENT COMPANY, will leave SYDNEY at 1 p.m. on the undermentioned dates for PLIMMOUTH and PORTSMOUTH (at com-
pany's option), the Suez Canal, calling at Naples:—

Ship. Tons. Date. Ship. Tons. Date.
INDIA ... 4702 April 24 ORIENT ... 4856 June 5
THIMBORAO ... 3847 May 8 GARONNE ... 4876 June 5
POTOSI ... 4362 May 22 NORATA ... 4699 July 5

PAISAN.—April 16, to break their passage.
PASSENGERS FROM LONDON.—Special facilities afforded
to passengers by our friends and relatives by prepayment of the pas-
sage money here.

ENTIRE CARS reserved on most liberal terms.

EXCURSION RETURN TICKETS.

Available 9 months.—First Class, £15; Second Class, £8.50.

Available 12 months.—First Class, £15; Second Class, £8.50.

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MANAGERS.—F. GREEN and CO., and ANDERSON,
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Sydney monthly, sailing at Derby, King's Sound, Western
Australia, 1st class, £100; 2nd class, £50.

For all particulars apply to the agents,

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ROCKHAMPTON ditto ditto ditto ditto

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TOWNSVILLE ditto ditto ditto ditto

DUNGENESS ditto ditto ditto ditto

MURILYAN ditto ditto ditto ditto

CARIBBEAN RIVER ditto ditto ditto ditto

CAIRNS ditto ditto ditto ditto

CAIRNS WHARF ditto ditto ditto ditto

PORT DOUGLAS ditto ditto ditto ditto

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FREDK. H. TROUTON, Manager.

W M . H O W A R D S M I T H & S O N S (LTD.) L A N E O F F A S T I N T E R C O L O N I A L S T E A M E R S .

The undersigned will despatch their STEAMERS (who pre-
ferable) as follows, from STRETCH'S WHARF and the NEW
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Brisbane.

Passengers and perishable cargo for Rockhampton for
transhipment at Keppel Bay.

Passengers and cargo for Dungeness, Cardwell, Mourilyan
Harbour, and Johnstone River, transhipped at Townsville.

Passenger and cargo for Mourilyan Harbour, and Johnstone River.

Passenger and cargo for Cairns.

Passenger and cargo for Cooktown.

Passenger and cargo for Port Douglas.

OUR BERLIN LETTER.

BERLIN, FEBRUARY 23.

The season is in full height. The German Parliament is holding its session, and the Houses of Lords and of Deputies are discussing so many important questions that the journals are scarcely able to reproduce the different speeches. In a former letter I mentioned that the Prussian Government had resolved to open a campaign against the great aristocratic Polish families who reside in the provinces of East Prussia, as these families have frequently proved themselves bitter enemies of the Prussian Monarchy. During the reign of the former King, Frederick William IV., a great many wrong measures had been taken against these families for the king was weak enough to fancy that he might be able to reconcile the Polish aristocracy to the fate of their country, and make them forget and forgive what could not be helped or remedied. At the same time one of his ministers of public worship supported the Catholic propaganda in these provinces with all his might, so that the German element became more and more suppressed. The Poles have been only too eager to take advantage of these circumstances, and they have recompensed a good many districts where hitherto a German majority had prevailed. From about 40,000 to 50,000 Poles have emigrated from the Polish districts in Russia and Austria, and have settled in East Prussia without becoming Prussian subjects, and without permission of the authorities. In the course of years matters thereby became almost unbearable for the German residents in these provinces, and the Government found out that measures must be taken to meet matters. Directly Prince Bismarck became aware of the great danger which might arise from such an influx of Polish and Catholic elements in East Prussia, he at once ordered that all these Poles were to be sent back to their original homes in Russia and Austria who had no regular passports and who had not fulfilled their duties towards the state in the way of taxes. The measure was opposed, naturally, by the Poles, the Ultramontane, and the Progressives, who found in these steps of the Government an excuse for most violently attacking the authorities in power. As the three abovementioned factions control the majority of the German Parliament, a motion was voted which blamed and censured the Government severely for having ordered away so many Poles, which was pronounced not to be in accordance with international law. However, in expressing this blame the German Parliament passed the laws of its rights, and the Prussian House of Lords as well as the Deputies hastened to protest against the motion in the Parliament, and gave a vote of confidence in this matter to the Government. Doctor Windthorst, the leader of the Centre party, was of course only too ready to make use of this opportunity to undermine not only the power of the German Empire but also of the Prussian Monarchy, and the Progressives, who have always distinguished themselves by great short-sightedness in all diplomatic matters, were quite willing to support Dr. Windthorst, who has no other aim in view than to destroy the work of the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck. The question has, of course, excited a good deal of interest abroad, and the French newspapers especially have much commented upon the act of the German Parliament, whereby the Poles are encouraged to continue and to extend their agitation against the Prussian Government.

Under these circumstances it was high time that the majority of the Prussian Diet openly supported the Prussian Cabinet by declaring that both Houses were willing to vote for all the measures which were believed necessary for suppressing the Polish propaganda and for strengthening the German element in the East Prussian provinces. It was, indeed, most remarkable that even the House of Lords approved the steps of the Government by a large majority, as up to the present the Prussian members of the House, and altogether the great aristocracy of Prussia, have shown a good deal of sympathy for their Polish enemies. The debates in the Upper House regarding the Polish question were all the more interesting as Bishop Kopp, the Bishop of Fulda, who quite recently was made member of the Upper House on the initiative of King William, on this occasion made his maiden speech. His speech proved him to be in opposition to Dr. Windthorst, for he expressed the conviction that the measures proposed by the Government for the suppression of the Polish agitation were not directed against the Catholic Church at large, and that therefore he, Bishop Kopp, would be ready if required to support the Government, to assist all those measures by which the monarchy could be strengthened. This speech naturally created great sensation, and has made a deep impression. The Ultramontane press particularly was at first so much struck that they did not comment on his speech. Dr. Windthorst, however, has now given the proof that Bishop Kopp has put himself in direct opposition to the majority of the Catholic population in approving the measures of the Government, and that he would therefore be obliged to retreat. Politicians are looking forward with suspense to the turn which this affair will take. It is a well-known fact that on former occasions when Catholic bishops tried to facilitate an understanding between Church and Government, the Ultramontane press, which is edited by the most radical champions, under the influence of the Jesuits, have been most eager to condemn the clerics, and have so long used their influence that the priests have been brought to confess their error, and there is a possibility that Bishop Kopp will likewise be induced by the terrorism of these radical elements to return under the banner of the leader of the Centre party, which latter does all in its power to keep up the struggle between Church and State, as the moment's peace is restored the whole party will collapse. At all events it is an important fact that several Catholic bishops have been quite ready to make peace with the Prussian Government, and that the Holy Father himself is anxious to do the same. This has been proved by the circumstance that Cardinal Count Leszczynski, the former Archbishop of Posen, has obliged a reversion to his former bishopric, and that he is not a member of the Polish aristocracy, but is German by birth. This appointment has no means met with the approval of the Polish agitators, and every effort is being made to induce the Pope to cancel it; if it remains, it would be a proof that the Prussian Government was Victor in the present struggle. It is, however, to be anticipated that the Pope will stand by his first resolution, and will thereby gratify the wishes of the Prussian Cabinet in this matter, all the more so as the revision of the May laws is being continued by the Cabinet. A new bill is at this moment under the discussion of the House of Lords by which the ecclesiastical law code is to be annihilated, and by which the election of the young Catholic priests is to be regulated in such a manner that the Church authorities will no longer have any reason whatever for complaint. The Conservatives as well as the greater part of the moderate Liberals are willing to vote for the bill, whereas the Progressives are as usual in opposition. The Centre party has not yet taken a decided position in regard to the bill, but it may be expected that if a majority exists for the bill, the Ultramontane will oppose it on the plea that it does not satisfy their expectations and wishes. By this attitude the Centre leaders are not moved by the interests of the Catholic Church and religion, but only by political reasons. This deplorable state of affairs will, however, last as long as Dr. Windthorst, who is also the leader of the Ultras and of the Particularists, remains at the head of the Centre party, as he is an enraged and bitter enemy of the German Empire.

Besides these Polish and religious questions, the interest of the political world has been concentrated in the proposal of the Government for monopolising the production and sale of spirits. Prince Bismarck himself is a great supporter of the monopoly system, by which he hopes to gain more than 20 millions for the State, assuming at the same time a nice profit to the landed proprietors and farmers, and by which at the same time the consumers in spirit would come under the strict control of the Government. The proposals of the Chancellor in this direction have met with the approval of the Federal Council; but it seems as if the majority of the German Parliament would not vote the monopoly system. [A London telegram dated March 29 states that the Reichstag rejected the Monopoly Bill—Ed.] The Progressives are strongly opposed to it, and they will be joined by the Ultramontane, as well as by the Socialists and Poles, while the Conservatives and moderate Liberals are willing to accept it. Should the monopoly not be

accepted, then Prince Bismarck will probably propose a license duty on spirits for which a majority may perhaps be found.

For the past 10 years, it has never happened that all the different parties have unanimously voted a bill proposed by the Government. This, however, is now the case. The surprising fact happened, when quite recently the proposal was made to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Baltic by a channel. This channel was long ago planned; but there were a great many difficulties in the way, which at last, after almost super-human patience and perseverance, have been all overcome. The channel, which is to begin at the Western coast of Silesia, will lead to the harbour of Kiel, and is to be constructed on such dimensions that even the largest German men-of-war can make use of it. It is anticipated that the channel will be very much frequented by private steamers, as the distance from the Atlantic to the Baltic will be much shortened by it; but there are also a great many strategic motives which have induced the Parliament to vote unanimously the necessary funds for this important enterprise, which, however, will not be completed for many years.

The Chancellor has been very busy lately. Not only had he often to appear in Parliament and in the Prussian Diet, defending his position on the aforementioned questions, but he was at the same time very much occupied with bringing the difficulties in the East satisfactorily solved. Though Germany has herself no important interest to defend in the Balkan Peninsula, Prince Bismarck was most anxious to avoid the outbreak of new complications there that threatened the general peace of Europe. The attitude of Greece was therefore of great importance. Directly Prince Bismarck became aware of the great danger which might arise from such an influx of Polish and Catholic elements in East Prussia, he at once ordered that all these Poles were to be sent back to their original homes in Russia and Austria who had no regular passports and who had not fulfilled their duties towards the state in the way of taxes. The measure was opposed, naturally, by the Poles, the Ultramontane, and the Progressives, who found in these steps of the Government an excuse for most violently attacking the authorities in power. As the three abovementioned factions control the majority of the German Parliament, a motion was voted which blamed and censured the Government severely for having ordered away so many Poles, which was pronounced not to be in accordance with international law. However, in expressing this blame the German Parliament passed the laws of its rights, and the Prussian House of Lords as well as the Deputies hastened to protest against the motion in the Parliament, and gave a vote of confidence in this matter to the Government. Doctor Windthorst, the leader of the Centre party, was of course only too ready to make use of this opportunity to undermine not only the power of the German Empire but also of the Prussian Monarchy, and the Progressives, who have always distinguished themselves by great short-sightedness in all diplomatic matters, were quite willing to support Dr. Windthorst, who has no other aim in view than to destroy the work of the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck. The question has, of course, excited a good deal of interest abroad, and the French newspapers especially have much commented upon the act of the German Parliament, whereby the Poles are encouraged to continue and to extend their agitation against the Prussian Government.

The Count de Paris having notified the heads of the great families of the old French nobility, the latter are annoyed at his not having addressed them as "Mon Cousin," according to the style of French kings in such communications; but the Count had explained that, not being at present a reigning sovereign, he could not employ a form of words only employed by the actual occupant of a throne. The sovereigns, however, had not been of the very best. Prince Bismarck has done all in his power to keep up a good understanding with France, and in this endeavour he was supported by all the French Ambassadors, who for the past 10 years have represented France at the Court of Berlin. Count St. Valier, the late French Ambassador, and Baron de Courte, the present French Ambassador, have both been in most intimate relations with the Chancellor, so that scarcely any difficulty arose during that period, and even the colonial questions were easily settled between the two Powers. The Radical element in France, however, seem not to be pleased by this alliance with France, and in this endeavour he was supported by all the French Ambassadors, who for the past 10 years have represented France at the Court of Berlin. Great preparations are already being made for this exhibition, large funds have been subscribed, and the Government, as well as the city of Berlin, will put considerable sums at the disposal of the committee, so that the thorough success of the enterprise is to be anticipated. Though in the main only German industry is to be represented, it is to be hoped that foreign nations will likewise take an interest in the exhibition.

INTERCOLONIAL ITEMS.

The Queen's correspondent of the Melbourne *Age* states that a special meeting of the Queen's borough council has been held to take a decided stand against the Queen's scheme. The Minister of Defence had applied for the forecourt of the present battery to the Crown's Nest for defence purposes. The intention is to form a battery at the Crown's Nest, which will be connected with the Queen's garrison by a narrow causeway, which will be built to a height of 12 feet wide. These military preparations will not interfere with access to the beach. The forecourt has been permanently reserved for public purposes.

At a meeting of brewers, wine and spirit merchants, hotelkeepers and others, which was held at Scott's Hotel, Liverpool, a resolution was passed to prohibit the sale of alteration of section 39 of the Licensing Act. This section provides, amongst other things, that all the public rooms of hotels shall be 9 feet high, and be partitioned off with plaster, brick or stone. It was pointed out by speakers that many rooms in hotels contain a larger number of cubicles than are allowed by law, and that it would be difficult to keep these in order. The alterations, however, and the section would be, in many cases, costly and yet of no practical benefit. The resolution is to be submitted by a delegation to the Chief Secretary.

Reports from Wimborne, Dorset, and parts of Lancashire (says the *Welsh Age*) show that the number of rabbit exterminators is rapidly increasing, and that the animals being used with great effect, especially where scrub has previously been burned. It is not so effective elsewhere, but carbon is used with success. The great obstacle to effectively ridding the districts of the pests is the affording by brush and log fences, and but little effort is being made to remove these. The work in Wimborne and in the surrounding districts is proving successful. The marine survey along the coast to Cudliffe River, especially in Munipus, has been well attended to, the men being engaged principally in digging out burrows and blocking up the crevices and fissures. The Agent-General and Colonial Office in London on the 2nd February, established a labour bureau, to be exhibited at the Post-office and in other ways, the best and most recent information relative to the demand for labour and prospects of successful migration in the colonies, the assistance and advice of the Agent-General and Colonial Office, and the services of the principal emigration agents, and every effort is being made to induce the Pope to cancel it; if it remains, it would be a proof that the Prussian Government was Victor in the present struggle. It is, however, to be anticipated that the Pope will stand by his first resolution, and will thereby gratify the wishes of the Prussian Cabinet in this matter, all the more so as the revision of the May laws is being continued by the Cabinet. A new bill is at this moment under the discussion of the House of Lords by which the ecclesiastical law code is to be annihilated, and by which the election of the young Catholic priests is to be regulated in such a manner that the Church authorities will no longer have any reason whatever for complaint. The Conservatives as well as the greater part of the moderate Liberals are willing to vote for the bill, whereas the Progressives are as usual in opposition. The Centre party has not yet taken a decided position in regard to the bill, but it may be expected that if a majority exists for the bill, the Ultramontane will oppose it on the plea that it does not satisfy their expectations and wishes. By this attitude the Centre leaders are not moved by the interests of the Catholic Church and religion, but only by political reasons. This deplorable state of affairs will, however, last as long as Dr. Windthorst, who is also the leader of the Ultras and of the Particularists, remains at the head of the Centre party, as he is an enraged and bitter enemy of the German Empire.

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The return of the Carnival, more and more slightly celebrated, year by year, in this city, has been with even more than the usual amount of flower-crushing and other extravagances, in the two principal towns of the Riviera. The Prince of Wales, as usual, has been in the thick of it; and this year, his Royal Highness has been accompanied by his closest friends, to the great satisfaction of his friends and the public in Cannes and Nice. Lord Cairns, and his beautiful American bride, Miss Grant, have been almost more conspicuously watched than the Princesses; the most conspicuous object in the procession of the 300 elaborately adorned vehicles in the Battle of Flowers, of the former town, being the life-boat of Lord Cairns' yacht, the *Cecilia*, mounted on wheels, and drawn—not by six white elephants, as originally intended—but by six white horses, and decked out with 10,000 white camellias, imported for this purpose from Japan.

of the Count, who, with only one hand, excels all other pianists. The Count gave proof of a remarkable aptitude for music and for poetry while a mere boy; his verses, like his compositions, having, from the first, a flavour of my-thism. He had visions, and fancied he saw the Virgin and heard the heavenly choir around her; when he would seize his violin and take part in the celestial concert. When the vision had disappeared, he would take his pencil and write a devout poem, describing the sights and sounds of his vision. In his fourteenth year, after an interval in the hunting field, he had to undergo the amputation of his right arm; and the surgeon strictly forbade him attempting any study or physical exertion. One day he put a sealed paper into his tutor's hand, after obtaining his promise that the paper should not be opened until the expiration of a year from that day. When, after a year, the paper was opened it was found to contain these words—"If in a year from to-day, I am not able to do, with my one arm, all that other people do with their two arms, I will shoot myself through the head." From the day when he wrote and sealed this row, the young Count would eat no article of food that he had not succeeded in peeling, and he let his nails grow until he had contrived the means of cutting them. He managed horses, rowed his boat, loaded his gun, and shot game in perfection, thanks to the ingenuity he brought to the service of the iron will that dwelt in his seemingly fragile personality. He studied law as well as the violin and the piano, was a diligent reader, composed four plays which he had performed in the theatres of Buda-Pesth, and published several novels and two volumes of poems. The young Count made the conquests of his great compatriot, Liszt, who dedicated his vocation. One day, when Zichy was playing the piano in Liszt's room, the greatest of pianists came quietly behind him, kissed him on the forehead, and said to him, "Thou shall have no rival!" Liszt then took him as his pupil and trained him during six years, helping him to replace his right hand with his thumb; but great as was Liszt's faith in his pupil, he never dreamt that Zichy would succeed in dashing off chromatograms with his thumb and executing his left hand leaps of five and six octaves—"tiger leaps," as the great master styled them. After his first concert, given in Vienna, M. Handelick, the leading musical critic of Austria and Hungary, declared "many people play the piano; a few of them charm their hearers; as for Zichy, he bewitches." Since then the count has gained £15,000 by his concerts, and has given every farthing thus gained by him to the poor of the countries in which he has played. One day a lady remarked to Liszt, in allusion to Zichy's loss of his right arm, "Poor fellow! how much he is to be pitied!" "Not he!" replied Liszt, "but sometimes his piano, and always those who have not heard him!" When Zichy played in Berlin the critics declared that, for a player to do what he did with one hand, there must be some special mechanism in the piano. Jochim, the celebrated violinist, therefore invited the Berliners to come and examine Zichy's piano. Such crowds came to the hotel to do so, that Zichy quitted Berlin and the innkeeper charged a small sum at the door, and made almost a fortune. The Count had long intended to give a concert in Paris for the poor of the region. This he has now done, and with the same brilliant success that always accompanies this amazing player.

The Count de Paris having notified the heads of the great families of the old French nobility, the latter are annoyed at his not having addressed them as "Mon Cousin," according to the style of French kings in such communications; but the Count had explained that, not being at present a reigning sovereign, he could not employ a form of words only employed by the actual occupant of a throne. The sovereigns, however, had not been of the very best. Prince Bismarck has done all in his power to keep up a good understanding with France, and in this endeavour he was supported by all the French Ambassadors, who for the past 10 years have represented France at the Court of Berlin. Great preparations are already being made for this exhibition, large funds have been subscribed, and the Government, as well as the city of Berlin, will put considerable sums at the disposal of the committee, so that the thorough success of the enterprise is to be anticipated. Though in the main only German industry is to be represented, it is to be hoped that foreign nations will likewise take an interest in the exhibition.

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RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir.—Mr. White addresses your readers, under date 14th inst., and claims that he and Mr. Heyne simply stated the truth to the Minister, when speaking of the Sick and Accident Society, that his claim is not denied by the letter in reply, and that the Association made a distinct statement that an employee suffered rather than benefited by belonging to the society. I presume he has given notice that he can entertain no proposal for playing in public. He is to understand that I am coming merely as a guest. My fingers are 75 years old; and Butlow, H. Saenger, Rubinstein, Walter Bueche, and Zichy play my compositions much better than my old friend did. The Albrecht Listz is going to England, but has given notice that he can entertain no proposal for playing in public. He is to understand that I am coming merely as a guest. My fingers are 75 years old; and Butlow, H. Saenger, Rubinstein, Walter Bueche, and Zichy play my compositions much better than my old friend did. 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HOMESTEAD LESSEES.

BY ONE OF THEM.

Although the present Act dealing with the lands of the colony is cited as the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is more probable that 1886 will have passed to the majority before some of the speculative theories suggested by the provisions of that Act have commenced to be tested in the light of practice. The revolution brought about by the passing of that measure—or, it might more appropriately be termed “series of revolutions,” that various sections of the Act dealing with matters so varied and embracing such different principles, that they might almost be looked upon as separate enactments—will prove none the less complete because developed only by the process of time and almost imperceptibly. Unlike the sudden upheavals which have invariably marked political revolutions, the agrarian reform now progressing are the result of years of consideration and experience, have been brought about in a constitutional manner, and will probably be more comprehensive than even the framers of that measure are aware. There is one particular portion of the new Land Act, operations under which will attract keener interest perhaps than all the rest of the measure combined. That portion deals with homesteads and leases. Under past legislation we have had squatting and conditional purchases; we have become familiar with the theory of black-mailing, of the abuses of the powers conferred by J.S.P.; we have seen districts become fairly populous under selection, and we have seen for tamed and lost on runs. But of the new class created by the Crown Lands Act of 1884, we at present, know nothing practically. There are ideas and theories afoot in abundance; but aught else lies hidden in the future, none the less impenetrable because of its proximity. It is a question if even in the districts where homestead selection has been heaviest, much thought has been given as to the probable results of one of the most pronounced features of the new Act, and it is safe to assume that still more speculative are metropolitan ideas upon the matter. It is known that a certain number of applications have been lodged for a certain area of country, that so much money has been received in respect thereof; that of these applications the boards have recommended some and refused others, and that some again of the applications have been withdrawn on account of the modifications of boundaries offered. But there is the realm of reality ceases, and that of theorising commences. Before proceeding to enter into the wide field of fancy as to the outcome of the future, it might not be out of place to endeavour to take stock if possible of those who at present constitute the homestead brigade. As a class it is not numerous, at present its numbers not exceeding 400. But it must be remembered that these stand very much in the position of explorers, of pioneers, upon whose success or failure the plans of many others will be formed. Again, the continuance of the octopus-like drought stands as a barrier to further operations on an extended scale, and until the burden of dryness has been swept away by copious rains, it is unreasonable to expect that time or capital will be invested in an, at present, untried field. Let but the doors of heaven open, clothing the soil with a luxuriant sward, filling the creeks with wholesome water in place of fetid fluid and rotting carcasses; let but work resume once more, and trade stagnation take unto itself wings and fly away, nature and humanity alike rejoice, and there is evidence enough already to warrant the prediction that the operations in the past will be found but infinitesimal compared with those reserved for the future. There is, however, a slight digression in these last remarks. To return to the main thread at the point at which it was dropped—homestead leases as a class—it may be stated that they are heterogeneous. There are representatives of nearly all grades and occupations found in the ranks of the new class; but it is a pronounced fact that, individually and collectively, homestead leases are widely different from the cockatoos farmers of repeated encroachments. One curious feature which has struck the writer, after many days' observation in various land courts, is the small percentage of applicants who have previously been engaged in either grazing or farming. Most of them may safely be termed practical men, who are, like Micawber on the eve of emigration, prepared to turn their hand to anything going; but there is a decided absence of the class one might almost have concluded would be represented the most strongly, and yet there are reasons for this too, although not presenting themselves prominently above the surface. On the one hand the farmers of the Central and Eastern divisions are hardly likely to travel out west, to what there is a perfect terra incognita, whilst those in any way mixed up with grazing in the western districts are by reason of that connection generally deemed by the land boards incompetent to connect themselves as bona-fide homestead lessees. This new class has therefore from necessity to look for recruits like the Foreign Legion of France, from outside sources. Amongst the applicants for homestead areas have been drapers, journalists, licensed victuallers, shopkeepers, millers, miners, communication agents, Soudan Contingent men, carpenters, mail contractors, and a whole host of other occupations of a like divergent nature. It is within the bounds of possibility that lying underneath the professed occupation of the applicant is a sufficiency of practical knowledge gained in other scenes and at other periods. Whether such is the case or not it is impossible to prove, but a casual glance at the various applicants as they step into the witness-box reveals sufficient to show that they are not enthusiasts rushing blindly into an unknown undertaking, but rather determined, practical fellows, who will soon acquire the requisite technical knowledge, and who will make up for any existing deficiency in that direction by an energetic perseverance. There is yet another question that may be asked in connection with the personnel of the homestead lessees. Are they genuine, or has the squatter, who found it advantageous to dummy 640 acres, or even smaller areas, also utilized the same means for securing the larger block of 10,240 acres? The question is not difficult to answer to one situated as is the writer. There may be (and most probably there are) cases not altogether as desired by the spirit of the Act, but such cases are the exception, the opposite being the rule. Many pastoralists, whose confidential employees have had their applications for homesteads refused, have afterwards expressed their sincere pleasure at such refusals, recognizing, after the first false step had been taken, that the course was best with dangers, rendering the game hardly worth the candle. What illicit work in regard to homesteads will exist is probably now existing, as far as the pastoral lesson is concerned. What little manœuvring the squatter intended to practise was probably exercised during the few earlier land entry days. No station would desire to secure it, worse country, to secure the best, early operation was necessary. There is, however, another source of danger which must not be overlooked, the most especially as it has already made itself apparent. That is the settlement upon land of various persons by and at the instance of, an individual other than a pastoralist. It should be borne in mind that a procedure such as this is equally permissible with the dummying of the squatter, and will require treating with the same severity. It will readily be seen that a very nice station can be made by an enterprising capitalist taking up a homestead himself and acquiring a dominant influence over four or five others adjoining him, and taking up with all due regard to an economical working of the whole.

Seeing that a certain number of persons have been induced to become lessees of the Crown or have expressed their desire to become such, only about 70 or 80 having by reason of the very slow drowsing from a gazette notice the right to occupy their land, it is only to be expected that a question will present itself as to the probable results of this settlement. Many and many have been the enticing pictures drawn by our land legislators of smiling farms and comfortable rural homes; but if they desired such dreams to be either than Utopian as regards the Western division, they have not gone the right way about reducing the ideal to the practical. That the new Act is an improvement on its predecessors none can deny, but it is a limited good that it asserts, cut short in its prime by the non-recognition of any species of tenant-right. When the rain does come (and it is stated and generally believed that it must come sooner or later)—it appears to be giving the latter preference—one of the immediate results of this settle-ment will be to slightly augment the population, and next will be to slightly augment the population, and by means of the necessary work that must go on, whether the lessees be bone fide or otherwise,

to assist in the trade revival it is to be expected will follow a general rainfall. As to the improvements that will be put on, it would be folly to expect that they will be anything more than sufficient to satisfy the Act and to enable the owner to rub along. Here and there a comfortable home will be met with, but so far the tendency, both in conversation and in utility, has been to deny any attempt at substantial improvements (other than the boundary fence) or any that are not absolutely required. Two, three, or four roomed galvanized iron cottages, according to requirements, or other cheap temporary habitations, may be expected and are already beginning to show themselves. Very few homestead leases appear to regard their blocks as being almost like looked upon as separate enclaves—will prove none the less complete because developed only by the process of time and almost imperceptibly. 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WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

VISIT TO RICHMOND.

(BY OUR OWN REPORTER.)

On Friday morning the New South Wales Royal Commission on the Conservation of Water proceeded by train to Richmond for the purpose of taking evidence from the following members attending:—Messrs. Russell-Barton, M.L.A., vice-president; J. B. Donkin, J.P., R. L. Murray, J.P., F. B. Gipps, C.E., and G. W. Townsend, C.E. The following gentlemen accompanied the commissioners:—Messrs. H. G. McKinlay, M.I.C.E., engineer to the commission; J. S. Ramsay, assistant secretary; and Mr. Angelo Smith, shorthand writer. Mr. D. McMurdo, M.I.C.E., one of the members of the commission, joined the party on Saturday morning. The town of Richmond is 38 miles north-west of Sydney, and only four from Windsor, being situated on the plain country within a few miles of the Hawkesbury River. When in highest flood the waters from the river rise to within a few feet of the level of the township, and on one occasion a boat carried the mails, mooring to a post within a few feet of the Royal Hotel, opposite the reserve in the centre of the town. The population numbers about 1300, and of the district about 3000. On Friday afternoon the commission proceeded to the Gross River, at its junction with the Hawkesbury, about four miles from Richmond, and taking two boats proceeded some five miles up the Gross to inspect a spot where it has been suggested that a dam should be placed for storing water for irrigation purposes, it not for the supply of that necessary to Richmond and Windsor. The Gross was spoken of at one time as a place from which a water supply could be obtained for Sydney, and the latest scheme in connection with it is the supply of Richmond and Windsor, as it has been pointed out that a large quantity of water could be stored there. The supply in the Gross is very good, and permanent, and the question has arisen about the desirability of utilising it for some purpose, and particularly for irrigating the plains. The visit of the commission was to see what chance there was of making a large reservoir there for this purpose, and at the end of their trip they came to a place where a bar crossed the river, and the hills closed in on both sides, leaving only a narrow gorge across which it would be easy to construct a dam. A reservoir situated so high up the stream, and far from the land which it is proposed to benefit, would be difficult to construct, and at the end of their trip they came to a place where a bar crossed the river, and the hills closed in on both sides, leaving only a narrow gorge across which it would be easy to construct a dam. 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MARINE

COMMERCIAL DEPRESSION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

—CAUSES OF THE DEPRESSION
[BY TELEGRAPH.]
(FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

ADELAIDE, SATURDAY.

The depression which for more than 12 months has prevailed throughout this colony seems to have depended somewhat, in consequence of the recent bank failure and the feeling of uneasiness created by the collapse of a number of business men and others. For the time, undoubtedly, all the industries of the colony are suffering. In the country districts, after a harvest of unparalleled scarcity, many of the farmers are in a deplorable condition, and depending for subsistence on the goodwill only of the shopkeepers, who, in turn, are being supported by the City houses. The effect on business in Adelaide is very marked, and the city is now passing through a more trying experience than has been known here for forty years past. The depression is the chief topic of conversation. Each day develops some fresh incident, even if that incident is only a rumour of some one to be added to the already large list of insolvents who within a few months past have been compelled to assign their estates for the benefit of their creditors. Many of the persons, as usual at such times, are of the most absurd character, pointing even to substantial firms and institutions, and have the most trivial fountains. Idle and malicious people seem to be ready to catch at anything to circulate to the detriment of the good name or fame of one or another person. The Savings Bank, a particularly well and carefully managed institution, with a good reserve fund, has this week had a slight run upon its funds through some unexplained cause which can only have been one of the ridiculous rumours so frequently current at the present time. The evidences of depression are manifest in the falling off in trade, estimated by good authorities to be from 20 to 30 per cent, of course varying with the character of the business. Profits 25 per cent less business is being done by merchants than was transacted a year ago. Consequently there has been curtailment of all round. Many employees have been dismissed, salaries reduced, and everything possible has been done to bring establishments into harmony with the altered conditions. Some tradesmen have closed their shops and left the colony. For the last 18 months or two years there has been a considerable exodus to the other colonies. People who arrive from Europe quickly pack up and resume their journeys to Melbourne, Sydney, or any other place which seems to hold out better prospects. During the past five years the colony has done little more than maintain an increase in population equivalent to the excess of births over deaths. For six months past the departures have been on an increasing scale, and have exceeded the arrivals by at least 1000 per month, and if this goes on the population of the colony, which on the 1st January last was estimated to be \$10,000, will probably not exceed \$15,000 at the end of the year. The exodus has, of course, left vacant many shops and dwellings, the result being that the supply of both is now in excess of the demand. Property in consequence has depreciated in value very considerably; from 10 per cent to 50 per cent is spoken of, the fall being most marked in business premises situated rather away from the principal thoroughfares. Probably the shrinkage has been 80 per cent all round.

In January the Adelaide Corporation made a uniform reduction of 15 per cent on all properties, and even this did not satisfy some ratepayers. Since then there has been no further depreciation. It is, however, admittedly difficult to give a general estimate of the reduction which has taken place. Property for the time being is almost unsaleable. Rents have fallen from 10 to 25 per cent, and in some cases, even more than that. The depression is evidenced in the considerable number of men who are out of work; but the unemployed question can hardly be said to have assumed a very serious phase. The Government have found work for about 1400 men in auxiliary works, in dam construction, and on water conservation works in different parts of the colony, and are still engaging others. The wages paid is 4d. per day, tents and tools being supplied. And where possible the relief works have been given by contract, the men making from 6d. to 7s. per day when so employed. This provision for the unemployed has eased the labour market very considerably, even though some dangerous and popularised hunters have tried to arouse hostility to the rate of wages. The colonists generally accept the arrangement as being fair, and men are going to work under it. Married men are required to give an authorisation for the payment of part of their wages to their wives for their support and for that of their families while they are absent. Provision is thus made to secure the relief of all who should benefit by it. The residue of the unemployed men who will not go to the country longer about the city in the hope of something turning up, and meanwhile set their wives to try and get relief from the Destitute Asylum or other charitable organisation. There has been an increase of about 20 per cent in the number of the outdoor relief cases at the Destitute Asylum, and they are now increasing at the rate of 10 per day are the nominal wages for mechanics, but there are numbers who are working at a larger rate. There is no excess of crime but rather less of drunkenness than usual. The people simply have less money to spend on amusements and luxuries. A theatrical entertainment company cannot maintain an existence in the city theatre, and the citizens are, for amusement, reduced to their town hall organ recitals, weekly band performances, and occasional amateur concerts. The depression means an all-round reduction of a rate of expenditure that in many directions has been admitted to be very extravagant, and though the reports of the depression are undoubtedly supported by the facts and figures obtainable, the actual condition of affairs is not so deplorable as has been represented.

A stranger visiting Adelaide would regard it as a substantial, if not a growing, city. Its shops, public buildings, and dwellings all give the impression that they have been the creation of a well-to-do people. Amidst all the complaints a visitor does not see any of those indications of squalid wretchedness which are an ever-pervading feature of the cities of the old world in good times as well as in bad. The moving throng in the streets are well dressed, and a barefooted child is hardly to be seen about the streets. No doubt this is in some measure due to the existence of reserves from good times that have preceded the present period. Indeed, the accumulations in the savings banks show a steady increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits to the run which took place this week. Moreover, the religious and educational agencies of the colony are fairly well maintained. Additions have been made to the number of churches in the colony. The city churches, however, are suffering in their funds, as might be expected, from the falling off in population and resources. The number of children attending the schools of the colony shows an increase of nearly 2000 for the year. In the city the numbers have undergone scarcely any change. The free scholars, however, are one-third more numerous than at the corresponding period of last year.

The main causes of the present trouble are the very deficient wheat harvest, the fall in the price of wool, and the continued depression in the cotton market. When, in 1884 and 1885, the wheat crop yielded sufficient to give a surplus for export of over 870,000 tons, this year the estimated export is only about 52,000 tons. Having regard to the increased area, the deficiency is equivalent to about 300,000 tons, which this year would have been worth very nearly \$3,000,000. When this amount is added to the deficiency from the wool clip of fully 1d. per lb., and the very low prices paid for the third chief item of colonial produce, it will be seen that the colony will fail to receive three million pounds sterling which would have been obtainable under ordinary conditions. The loss from the absence of the circulation of so large an amount amongst a community of little more than 300,000 is quite sufficient to account for the present depression, but to that natural cause of depression caused by drought and the reduction of values in the markets of the world, have been added others of a different character. Some years back syndicates were formed to buy up land around Adelaide. Up to \$400 per acre was paid, and the land was cut up and sold freely at first. Whilst the harvests were good, the Government was lavish in spending loan and land funds. Money was plentiful, and allotments were bought in all directions. The syndicates who purchased the blocks, and the other buyers who took the allotments, hoped to turn over their purchases at a profit, and at first they did so. But tempted

by the success of first speculation, more land was bought until 18 months or two years ago, when the scarcity of money began to be felt. Since then land has been gradually falling in value. The syndicates have been unable to get off their hands even at the prices they gave for it, and many members of the syndicates have failed to meet their liabilities; hence for weeks past there have been daily assignments and insolvencies in many cases traceable to responsibilities incurred in connection with these ill-judged land speculations. The members of the syndicates being jointly and severally liable in nearly all cases, it has frequently failed to a very small proportion to pay for the bulk of their land. The lesson on this description of speculation is that it is a waste of time and money to speculate in land. The losses on the description of speculation brought me into the ranks of the unemployed need not be told. It was quite enough for me to realise my actual position without anatomising the why and wherefore. After all the man who lays aside his head and takes up his hands has nothing to be ashamed of. He has merely to face the fact that he thereby becomes socially dead, and to remember that as in the eyes of society the man stricken with poverty is as one smitten with leprosy—unclean, and to be avoided as contaminating. Still the labourer is only fulfilling the assigned task of the human race, of living to work and working to live. Most men—and as far as manual labour is concerned full men—work because they must, not because they like it. It is just carrying out the fact that the thereby becomes socially dead, and to remember that as in the eyes of society the man stricken with poverty is as one smitten with leprosy—unclean, and to be avoided as contaminating. Still the labourer is only fulfilling the assigned task of the human race, of living to work and working to live. 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QUEEN has taken special measures to keep herself in evidence in other ways. Many a kindly inquiry, many a message of sympathy or condolence, has betrayed her Majesty's interest in the personal welfare of her subjects. These have had their influence far and wide, but it is not to them we refer. As it seems to us, the books which her MAJESTY has published—simple records of quiet family life—have constituted an almost pathetic appeal to the affections of the people; a standing request that public claims of the ordinary kind might in her case be waived; an expression of the desire to be thought of and remembered by her people in the familiar light of that domestic life which can be understood and appreciated by all, and the picture of which, thus drawn, illustrates a community of feeling and interest connecting the cottage with the throne. Few will believe that the appeal has failed.

A colonial Governor, who accepts the full responsibilities of his position as the representative of the Crown, will not neglect to keep himself in evidence;

and if he be a man of discernment and

sympathy he will not only perceive the right

way to do this, but will follow his own

impulses in following it. When Lord

Dufferin was Governor-General of Canada

some years ago, he compared his official

functions with those of a man with

an oil-can watching the movements of

some great machine, and judiciously

injecting drops of the lubricant here and

there to prevent friction and ensure

the smooth and continuous working of every

part. The illustration was apt, though it

hardly covered the whole case. A colonial

Governor, at any rate in these colonies, does

well to keep himself before the people; but a

sound discretion will preserve him from in-

curing the risk of being thought a meddler

or from treading on disputed ground, whilst

an unaffected and sincere display of interest

in the occupations, prospects, and general

conditions of the people will make his ap-

pearance welcome wherever he goes, win for

himself a strong personal regard, and promote

the fulfilment of one of the chief purposes

of his mission—the strengthening of the

sentimental ties that bind the colony to the

mother country.

The hiring of the immigrants by the Aber-

deen on Friday last, which—as already re-

ported—resulted in all the single girls, fifty-

seven in number, being engaged within an

hour and a half, was merely a repetition of

what has happened on previous occasions.

But these facts furnish such a conclusive

answer to the scandalous statements made at

the Conference on Emigration in London, to

which we referred the other day, that we

may well ask why nothing is done to make the

actual results of these binnings known at

home in England. There is no reason why

they should not be telegraphed by the Govern-

ment to the Agent-General, with instruc-

tions to make them known through the usual

channels adopted by him for communicating

with the British public. It may be said

that no better means exist for the purpose

of dispelling doubts among intending emi-

grants as to their prospects on arriving

here, and at the same time correcting the

false impressions made by the slanders

of the colony. If this information were

given regularly and as soon as possible after

the arrival of each immigrant ship, it

would serve to show the state of the labour

market in the colony, and would answer

much the same purpose as the ordinary market

notations in the commercial world. The

number of immigrants by each ship and

their various occupations, the number hired

and the rates of wages at which they were

engaged, would allow at a glance what sort of

labour was in demand here, how far the

supply was equal to it, as well as the ruling

rates for each description of labour. State-

ments of this kind, made on official authority,

and published in the English newspapers

with the usual conciseness and promptitude

of telegraphic intelligence, would com-

mand public confidence to a degree

which could not attach to any other

kind of communication on the subject. An

Agent-General in search of emigrants is very

much in the position of a recruiting sergeant,

and is necessarily under the temptation to

represent the advantages of emigration to his

particular colony in the language of an

alarm puff. But these can be no puffery

about an official telegram, stating bare facts

on the authority of the colonial Govern-

ment. The Agent-General would proba-

bly be the first to profit by this

sort of intelligence. It would furnish

him with the best of all possible guides in

the selection of emigrants, and the best of all

possible replies to the numberless inquiries

which he is called upon to answer. On the

other hand, he would be protected against the

usual liability to error in forming his estimates

of the emigrants required for each ship; on

the other, he could give abundant informa-

tion automatically, by pointing his finger to

the latest telegram from Sydney.

If these were the only advantages that

might be derived from the despatch of the

telegrams proposed, they would be cheaply

purchased at the cost of a few pounds for

each message. But there is another ad-

vantage that might be gained from them,

of hardly less importance. They would

go far to stop the mouths of the male-

volent slanders of the colony, per-

suaded in those who address the Con-

fidence on Emigration—people whose

mouts, unfortunately, cannot be stopped in

any other way. Every disappointed emi-

grant to the colonies finds his best and

cheapest solace in reviling them a his return

to England. Ever since emigration began

men of this class have been in the habit of

publishing letters in the London and pro-

vincial newspapers, in which the colonies are

represented in every shape and form of

malicious invention, and intending emigrants

are warned against a voyage to Australia as

certain to end in disappointment. These mis-

representations are read everywhere through-

out England, and, as they are never checked or

corrected, must inevitably work their intended

effect in deterring emigration to the colonies.

It should not be forgotten that letter of this

kind, purporting to give the result of personal

experience, carry a great deal more weight in

the minds of the uninformed than pamphlets,

always open to suspicion—a one-

word and interested statement of the question.

Nothing appears in the shape of correction,

and consequently nothing is done to shake the

authority of the anonymous letter-writer who

is allowed to pose as the public champion

of so many helpless and defrauded victims.

But a new species of libeller has now & be-

reckoned with. Apparently inspired by the success which has attended their underground operations in the shape of anonymous communications to the Press, the disappointed emigrants have boldly risen to the surface, and appeared before the public without a mask. They attend a Conference on Emigration, where they find themselves surrounded by men of prominent position, and rise to "read a paper" with as much confidence as if they were recognised authorities on the subject. This mode of attack is a much more serious one than the anonymous letter. The contents of the "paper" are certain to appear in the newspapers in a more or less conspicuous shape, and to attract proportionately more attention. If the Agent-General of the colony attacked should chance to be present when the "paper" is read, of course there will be some attempt at contradiction of untruthful statements; but that will not prevent their circulation through the press, however much it may provoke discussion; and notoriety being the object aimed at, even public contradiction may serve the libeller's purpose.

But how if the Agent-General of the colony should not be present? In that case the "paper" stands contradicted. It comes before the public under the auspices of a formidable Conference on Emigration, and the authority of the writer not being even called in question, it must naturally produce some effect of the kind desired. It is particularly unfortunate, as we said on a former occasion, that Sir Saul SAMUEL was not present at the Conference when the paper on New South Wales was read. It was certainly an occasion on which the presence of the colony's representative might have been expected, and would have been useful. The Conference appears to have been the result of a movement—which has obtained the support of the Home Government—for the purpose of promoting emigration on a new plan. Instead of leaving the task of stimulating emigration entirely to the colonial Government, the Colonial Office has at last—under the heavy pressure caused by the agitation of the unemployed—resolved to exert its influence in directing the tide of migration to the colonies. The Agents-General have been officially consulted by Lord GRANVILLE as to the number of working men that could be absorbed by their respective colonies, and a labour bureau has been established in connection with the Colonial Office. This is a new and significant departure from the traditions of that department, and its progress will be carefully noted in the colonies as well as at home. Under such circumstances, the Conference in question must necessarily have attracted more than usual attention; and this colony should not have been left without a representative on such an occasion. It was not only unrepresented, but it does not appear that any steps were taken for the purpose of promptly checking the misrepresentations indulged in at the expense of the colony—except so far as they affected the personal character of Sir ALEXANDER STEARL. An error of this kind should not be allowed to occur again. The interests of the colony are at stake on such occasions. This, however, is not the only event which tends to show that the action—or rather inaction—of the Agent-General's department should be vigilantly watched. We have already suggested that steps should be taken for the purpose of providing it regularly and systematically with properly compiled information respecting the colony, to be used instead of the unsatisfactory productions which have hitherto emanated from the London office. It, in addition to such materials, telegrams stating the result of the hirings at the immigration barracks were also despatched as promptly as press messages usually are, good results would probably make themselves felt in more than one direction.

A few days ago we despatched a special commissioner to South Australia for the purpose of ascertaining by personal inspection and inquiry the nature and extent of the commercial depression existing in that colony. His first communication appears in another column. Many of the accounts of the depression which have been printed during the past few weeks have produced the impression that the country is ruined; and it would appear that a number of Adelaide people have taken an active part in circulating these statements. In his last letter our Melbourne correspondent narrated the substance of a conversation which he had with a South Australian who had just arrived in Victoria, in which the latter affirmed that the colony had fallen so low that it was impossible it could ever rise again. This will please our readers to know that these accounts are exaggerations. There is depression in the colony. If this information were given regularly and as soon as possible after the arrival of each immigrant ship, it would serve to show the state of the labour market in the colony, and would answer much the same purpose as the ordinary market notations in the commercial world. The number of immigrants by each ship and their various occupations, the number hired and the rates of wages at which they were engaged, would allow at a glance what sort of labour was in demand here, how far the supply was equal to it, as well as the ruling rates for each description of labour. Statements of this kind, made on official authority, and published in the English newspapers with the usual conciseness and promptitude of telegraphic intelligence, would command public confidence to a degree which could not attach to any other kind of communication on the subject. An Agent-General in search of emigrants is very much in the position of a recruiting sergeant, and is necessarily under the temptation to represent the advantages of emigration to his particular colony in the language of an alarm puff. But these can be no puffery about an official telegram, stating bare facts on the authority of the colonial Government. The Agent-General would probably be the first to profit by this sort of intelligence. It would furnish him with the best of all possible guides in the selection of emigrants, and the best of all possible replies to the numberless inquiries which he is called upon to answer. On the other hand, he would be protected against the usual liability to error in forming his estimates of the emigrants required for each ship; on the other, he could give abundant information automatically, by pointing his finger to the latest telegram from Sydney.

If these were the only advantages that might be derived from the despatch of the telegrams proposed, they would be cheaply purchased at the cost of a few pounds for each message. But there is another advantage that might be gained from them, of hardly less importance. They would go far to stop the mouths of the malevolent slanders of the colony, persuaded in those who address the Confidence on Emigration—people whose mouths, unfortunately, cannot be stopped in any other way. Every disappointed emigrant to the colonies finds his best and cheapest solace in reviling them on his return to England. Ever since emigration began men of this class have been in the habit of publishing letters in the London and provincial newspapers, in which the colonies are represented in every shape and form of malicious invention, and intending emigrants are warned against a voyage to Australia as certain to end in disappointment. These misrepresentations are read everywhere throughout England, and, as they are never checked or corrected, must inevitably work their intended effect in deterring emigration to the colonies.

It should not be forgotten that letter of this kind, purporting to give the result of personal experience, carry a great deal more weight in the minds of the uninformed than pamphlets, always open to suspicion—a one-word and interested statement of the question.

Nothing appears in the shape of correction, and consequently nothing is done to shake the authority of the anonymous letter-writer who is allowed to pose as the public champion of so many helpless and defrauded victims. But a new species of libeller has now & be-

reckoned with. Apparently inspired by the success which has attended their underground operations in the shape of anonymous communications to the Press, the disappointed emigrants have boldly risen to the surface, and appeared before the public without a mask. They attend a Conference on Emigration, where they find themselves surrounded by men of prominent position, and rise to "read a paper" with as much confidence as if they were recognised authorities on the subject. This mode of attack is a much more serious one than the anonymous letter. The contents of the "paper" are certain to appear in the newspapers in a more or less conspicuous shape, and to attract proportionately more attention. If the Agent-General of the colony attacked should chance to be present when the "paper" is read, of course there will be some

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, SATURDAY.

At a meeting of members of the Presbyterian denomination, held last night in the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, to protest against the French annexation of the New Hebrides, a resolution was adopted sympathising with the Presbyterians of New South Wales in their present position of being misrepresented in regard to this question by their Premier and Parliament, and adding the hope that they may yet be successful in moving their Government to join the other colonies. A copy of these resolutions will be forwarded to the Moderator of the General Assembly of New South Wales.

A severe gale is prevailing on the coast, and heavy rain is reported from several inland centres. Considerable damage has been done to the works being carried on at the Gippsland Lakes entrance.

The law advisors to the Crown are of opinion that certain numbers of the *Liberator*, a periodical, contain blasphemous matter in them of a nature such as to justify the Postmaster-General destroying rather than circulating them through the post. It is intended to act on that opinion with regard to future objectionable numbers.

The Postal Department intend to utilise, as offered, the new German mail service via Brindisi. By those letters sent for Germany will be 6d. instead of 8d. by the Brindisi route, and 7d. via San Francisco, while 4d. letters from Germany will only be 2d.

At the Sandhurst Assize Court, on Saturday, Harry Roberts, mining agent, was sentenced to two years' hard labour for uttering forged scrip of the United Devonshire Company, of which he was a director. At the same court, Chas. Savill, of the Water Supply Department, Sandhurst, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for embezzling the money of the Government.

A pearl mill owned by Mr. Thomas Brenner, at Meppunda, near Warrnambool, was destroyed on Saturday morning under peculiar circumstances. It seems that the "government" bell broke in two, and the engine went uncontrollable. A fearful momentum was imparted to the barley stalk, which in the course of a few moments flew into pieces from the spindle and completely demolished the building. Two men and a boy, who were working in different parts of the premises, had a narrow escape, but no one was hurt. Mr. Brenner's loss is considerable, as he will be delayed in his operations for six months in getting a new stone.

SOLOMON FLEISCH, a German hawker, living in a right-of-way of McIntyre-line, is in custody for shooting with intent at a young man named McGinley, who is in a dangerous state in the hospital. Fleisch has it appears been in the habit of frightening larkins by firing a revolver, and he alleges that he fired in this instance after being much worried by the larkins.

SUNDAY.

BRISBANE, SUNDAY.

The King native movement may now be said to be at an end. King Tawhiao has become completely reconciled to the Government, and he will be called to the Upper House.

A whaleboat race for £200 a-side was rowed on Saturday between crews representing Waitamata, Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and the Thames. It resulted in favour of the latter crew.

convalescence from an attack of confluent smallpox. He is a young man, aged 25, and went on board the *Chimbaboro* at Naples on March 12. He fell ill on March 27, and was removed to the hospital on board ship, and four days later was isolated in a boat. The other passengers are now quite isolated from the patient on Torrens' Island, and all are perfectly free from infection. Altogether there are 24 passengers on Torrens' Island.

TASMANIA.

HOBART, SATURDAY.

R. and C. Rawson were fined at the police court £100 each for distilling spirits without a license. They were distilling spirits of wine, and the defence was that they had applied for a license, and thought that they could distill pending the granting of it.

At a special meeting of the Launceston Gas Company the directors were empowered to issue 1000 more shares at a premium of £2. Option was given to the present shareholders to take them at the rate of one share for every four at present held by them.

Debentures will be issued to the amount of £5000 at 6 per cent. to clear off the liabilities, and make extensive additions to the plant, and to increase the contingency fund to £10,000.

SUNDAY.

It has been finally decided that the Easter Volunteer encampment shall be held on the old racecourse at Ross. It is expected that at least 500 volunteers will be present.

The Government has called tenders for a large supply of Newcastle coal; but it is objected that a great deal of what is wanted might be obtained from the coal mines at Fingal, which are now being opened out.

The late Earl of Shaftesbury, who recently committed suicide in London, was several times at Hobart with H.M.S. *Havannah*. He is remembered as a genial young sailor.

A proposal has been made to bring immigrants here direct from the Shaw, Savill, and Albion line, instead of sending them first to Melbourne.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND, SUNDAY.

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ARRIVAL OF THE CHIMBORAZO IN HOBSON'S BAY.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, SUNDAY.

The Central Board of Health met on Saturday to consider the steps to be taken with regard to the R.M.S. *Chimbaboro* on arriving here. It was decided that the Melbourne passengers should be put into quarantine, and the Victorian portion of the cargo should be disinfected and discharged, with the usual precautions, into lighters at the outer anchorage, and the mails should also be carefully fumigated before being landed.

The *Chimbaboro* arrived at the Heads this afternoon, and came up the bay at once, it having been arranged that the Victorian passengers should be landed at the quarantine station as the vessel passed it again en route to Sydney. Dr. Sutherland boarded the *Chimbaboro* at the Heads. He was instructed to see that the fumigation of the mails was properly done, and also to watch the discharging of the cargo. The *Chimbaboro* reached the outer anchorage at about 10 o'clock. A close surveillance will be maintained with the view of preventing improper communication with the shore.

THE WRECK OF THE TAIRAOA.

OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

[BY CABLE.]
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AUSTRALIA.

In consequence of an advance in the price of steer, the New Zealand bakers have decided to raise the price of bread from 3d. to 3½d. the loaf.

A meeting of operatives was held last night, to consider what steps should be taken with regard to Mr. Muirhead, contractor, who, it was alleged, was employing labourers to do stonemasons' work. Resolutions were passed that Mr. Muirhead be declared "black" as long as he employs labourers to do masonry, and that a deputation wait upon him to state. A motion that he be boycotted was also passed, and it was resolved also that partners of the Fire Brigades, of which the late Mr. Beattie was for many years superintendent.

The Government recently made a grant of land as a site for an asylum for the deaf and dumb and blind. Mr. Alexander Stuart, of the firm of Stuart and Hemmant, has forwarded to the committee a donation of £500 towards the building fund; and Mr. Stuart has also given a donation of £500 towards the building fund of the Industrial Home for Friendless and Fallen Women.

The Premier has received from the Agent-General a cablegram with reference to the Spanish treaty similar in purport to that received by the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales.

A cablegram has been received by the Chief Secretary from the Agent-General, initiating that the meeting which was held in London a few days ago to advocate the separation of Northern from Southern Queensland, was a very small one. Mr. Garrick, the Agent-General, was present by invitation, and he expressed dissent from the statement of the speakers at the meeting.

The Chief Secretary has, by cable, requested the Agent-General not to allow Dr. Hickling to be again employed in the immigration service until he has furnished a satisfactory explanation with regard to certain matters connected with the outbreak of cholera on board the *Dorunda*. Dr. Kortenau, health officer at Cooktown, has been requested to report fully upon the circumstances attending the arrival of the *Dorunda* at that port, and to forward a copy of Dr. Hickling's report upon the nature of sickness on board at that time.

During the last week 209 saloon and 241 steerage passengers arrived in Brisbane by steamer from the south; 178 saloon and 185 steerage passengers left for the south.

A crushing of 1274 tons from Nos. 3 and 4 North Glimpse, Gympie, yielded 1277oz. of gold. A dividend of 1s. 6d. has been declared. The Ellen Hawkins mine has declared a dividend of 6d.

A telegram from Cooktown states that the ship John Da Costa, which was wrecked some time ago in Torres Straits, has been abandoned after a lot of money had been spent in trying to get her off. The pumps set up were unable to keep the water out.

Mr. Stewart, the explorer, has purchased a vessel at Thursday Island, and has left there for New Guinea with four men.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, SATURDAY.

The City of Adelaide Land and Investment Company held a meeting of shareholders and creditors yesterday, at which it was decided to commence that the affairs of the company should not be liquidated.

Observations were taken at the Observatory last night in connection with the occultation of Jupiter, the time taken were:—Ingress, Sh. 25m. 3s.; Egress, Sh. 1m. 48s. The sky was cloudy, but good observations were made.

SUNDAY.

At the City Police Court on Tuesday R. S. Anear, manager of the Hamley Bridge branch of the National Bank will be charged with embezelling £11, and with forging £133. The full amount of his defalcations is not mentioned. It is understood that only two charges for the amounts specified will be made. Anear was transferred four years ago from the West Australian service of the bank.

The Government Resident in the Northern Territory has just returned to Palmerston from a visit to Beaufort Hills, Adelaide River. He reports that the coffee plants and indigo-rubber plants are thriving well. The coffee plants are in blossom, and bearing berries.

A number of the unemployed were sent on Saturday by the Government to the Murray Flats, where they will be engaged in the reclamation of land.

A day of humiliation and prayer was observed in all but the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to-day. Sermons dealing with the causes of the depression and its remedies were preached. In the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, this being the Lenten season, there was no special departure from the ordinary Lenten service.

Mr. R. J. Booth, Gospel temperance lecturer, commenced a fortnight's mission to night in the Town Hall, which was crowded in every part. After his address a large number of persons took the pledge.

Dr. Toll, the health officer, visited the quarantine station on Saturday evening and this afternoon, and found everything in a satisfactory condition. Dr. Bailey, a member of the staff appointed by the New South Wales Government to deal with smallpox there in 1881 and 1882, is acting as resident medical officer at the quarantine station. He has taken charge of the smallpox patient who was landed from the *Chimbaboro*. The name of the patient is Micoles Tiembarroil. He is progressing towards

COUNTRY NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ALBURY, SUNDAY.

Light rain commenced to fall on Saturday, and it has continued at intervals ever since. Thirty points have fallen.

BALINANALD, SATURDAY.

We have had little or no rain in this district during the past four months, and suspending accounts are received by the post office, and suspending accounts are received by the post office, and the low condition of stock. It threatened rain last night, but to-day all signs of the much-needed rain have cleared away. Feed is getting quite scarce. The Murrumbidgee has not been so low for the last twenty years.

BRAEWARRINA, SATURDAY.

Cool bright weather still continues, with no appearance of further rain. Reports from the outlying stations show that Monday's rain has been heavier in places than that which here, up to an inch and a half being registered. Several tanks were filled. The rivers are all.

CARCOAR, SATURDAY.

At the courthouse yesterday a sale of church and school lands took place. Only four lots were sold. The attendance was meagre, owing, it is considered, to the gloomy outlook for the coming winter. There seems little inducement at present for persons to speculate.

THEATRE.

The weather is splendid. A soaking rain fell on Thursday night, and 120 inches were registered, making 24 inches for the week, since which the weather has been extremely cold, with heavy clouds, threatening more rain. Feed is very scarce, and most stockmen dread the coming winter.

CASINO, SATURDAY.

At the courthouse yesterday a sale of church and school lands took place. Only four lots were sold. The attendance was meagre, owing, it is considered, to the gloomy outlook for the coming winter. There seems little inducement at present for persons to speculate.

GRAFTON, SATURDAY.

The sitting of the Assize Court was continued to-day, before Acting Judge Knox. The further hearing of the charge against William Liddiard, for the murder of Patrick Noonan, at Wardell, in May last, was proceeded with, and occupied the attention of the Court all day. At 6 p.m. the case was further adjourned until Monday morning. The evidence of the man Hartford, who was accused as Queen's evidence, has not been shaken, although he was subjected to a long cross-examination by the counsel for the defense.

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HILLSTON, SATURDAY.

No land was taken up at the local land office during the week.

The weather is cold, cloudy, and changeable, with a south wind blowing.

NOWRA, SATURDAY.

Splendid rain fell here on Wednesday and Thursday, giving this month up to date 3½ inches.

Great dissatisfaction is expressed here, and between here and Kiama, at the action of the postal authorities in delaying the despatch of the Shoalhaven mails at Kiama from 10 o'clock to 1 o'clock in Gerringsong. It has the effect of delaying correspondence in reply 24 hours, and the mail does not arrive here till two hours after the closing of the post office. The delay has been made so that the Kiama post office can take Wollongong letters, which do not reach Kiama till 12.

NEWCASTLE, SATURDAY.

In consequence of an advance in the price of steer, the New Zealand bakers have decided to raise the price of bread from 3d. to 3½d. the loaf.

A meeting of operatives was held last night,

to consider what steps should be taken with regard to Mr. Muirhead, contractor, who, it was alleged, was employing labourers to do stonemasons' work. Resolutions were passed that Mr. Muirhead be declared "black" as long as he employs labourers to do masonry, and that a deputation wait upon him to state. A motion that he be boycotted was also passed, and it was resolved also that partners of the Fire Brigades, of which the late Mr. Beattie was for many years superintendent.

The *Chimbaboro* arrived at the Heads this afternoon, and came up the bay at once, it having been arranged that the Victorian passengers should be landed at the quarantine station as the vessel passed it again en route to Sydney. Dr. Sutherland boarded the *Chimbaboro* at the Heads. He was instructed to see that the fumigation of the mails was properly done, and also to watch the discharging of the cargo. The *Chimbaboro* reached the outer anchorage at about 10 o'clock. A close surveillance will be maintained with the view of preventing improper communication with the shore.

NIGHTINGALE, SATURDAY.

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PINEY, SATURDAY.

There was quite a rush this morning in selecting vacant Crown lands within the borough. About 15 allotments were pegged out under miners' rights.

It is raining slightly.

WAGGA WAGGA, SUNDAY.

Rain fell here from 6 o'clock last night until midnight. Twenty points have fallen, and there are indications of a further fall.

The *Deniliquin Chronicle* gives the following particulars of the case:—Mr. W. W. Watson, the managing director of the Joint Stock Bank, who was drowned in the Murray River. It appears that about 8.30 Sunday morning, deceased, accompanied by Mr. Christie, of the *Advertiser* newspaper, and Mr. Barnett, the clerk of petty sessions, went in boat to the mouth of the river, and a convenient spot was chosen to bathe. Deceased undressed, and was declared "black" as long as he employed labourers to do masonry, and that a deputation wait upon him to state. A motion that he be boycotted was also passed, and it was resolved also that partners of the Fire Brigades, of which the late Mr. Beattie was for many years superintendent.
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Stock, Shares, and Money.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL INVESTMENT AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Capital—£100,000
Reserve Fund—£40,000.

Head Office:
100, Pitt-street,
SYDNEY.

Branch Office:
AUBURN-STREET,
GOULBURN.

Deposits received to any extent, and interest allowed thereon at the following rates:—
1 PER CENT. PER ANNUM AT CALL
6 PER CENT. PER ANNUM AT 6 MONTHS,
with right to withdraw the whole or any portion at any time, with interest at the current rate for period of deposit.

FIXED DEPOSITS.
Fixed Deposits for TWO, THREE, and FIVE YEARS receive interest at the rate of SEVEN, EIGHT, and NINE PER CENT. per annum, and participation in the profits, in the shape of a BONUS at maturity.

EXTRACT FROM LAST REPORT.
Your Directors, in submitting their statement for the past year, have pleasure in reporting a very increase in every branch of the Company's business, as evidenced by the following comparison:—

1885. 1884. 1883.

Total Receipts ... £31,317 12 £21,000,200 7 10 £10,000,118 4 11

Money on deposit ... 40,492 4 11 90,000 13 5 285,221 15 7

Balances due to credit of depositors ... 11,967 4 0 20,000 6 9 41,190 11 1

Balances due to credit of depositors ... 23,609 12 3 83,814 17 11 200,865 4 8

Land buyers' balances ... 31,312 12 4 83,301 17 0 14,139 3 11

Land purchased by Company ... 24,427 3 7 45,455 2 7 58,775 4 6

Unsold land at cost ... 7,018 6 2 55,000 5 5 55,000 10 7

Advances made by Company for building ... 15,645 10 11 35,357 8 3 34,368 3 5

The net profits for the year, after deducting all expenses, amounted to £10,000,000, and the Directors propose to dividend 10 per cent., and £200, leaving a balance of £11,431 15s 2d, which your Directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

To payment of dividend to shareholders, 23 per cent. ... £200 0 0

To payment of bonus to depositors, 11 per cent. ... 2015 11 4

To payment of bonus to borrowers, 6 per cent. ... 2015 11 4

To payment of dividend to land buyers, 8 per cent. ... 2015 11 4

Amount transferred to reserve fund ... 4000 0 0

Leaving a balance to credit of profit and loss of ... 1919 7 10 12

£11,431 15s 2d

H. G. SWINY, Esq.
Managing Director.

MONEY. MONE Y.

100,000 POUNDS TO LEND, in small or large sums, to MALE OR FEMALE, on MORTGAGE of Freehold and Leasehold Property, without registration if required; interest from 6 per cent. up to 12 per cent.; also 6 per cent. for Life Policies. Pro Notes, Bills of Exchange, and all kinds of security, repayable by easy instalments according to agreement.

For full particulars apply:

Australasian Mortgage and Discount Company,
42, Pitt-street.

GEORGE R. KIRKLY, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICE. Borrowers receive the amount applied for in full without deduction for interest or agency commission.

MONEY LENT WITHOUT DELAY, WITHOUT PUBLICITY.

LAND MORTGAGE, LOAN, AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, 62, ROYAL ARCADE, first floor, Pitt-street, staircase entrance.

CAPITAL—£100,000.

ADVANCES made without deductions or preliminary expenses on MERCHANTING, BILL OF LADING, MACHINERY, CATTLES, AND OTHER MATERIALS, LEASE, or FREEHOLDs, in SMALL or LARGE QUANTITIES, at interest rates from 6 to 12 per cent.

TRADE DISCOUNTS discounted DAILY without delay.

REVERBUNARY interests, LEGACIES, EUROPEAN REMITTANCES advanced on.

Country communications promptly attended to.

Addressee, as above,
62, Royal Arcade, first floor,
Pitt-street, staircase entrance.

LAND COMPANY OF AUSTRALASIA, Limited.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £200,000

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... £25,000

LAND RESERVE FUND ... £25,000

TEMPORARY HEAD OFFICE—278, Pitt-street.

COURT OF DIRECTORS: William Hudson, Chairman; A. W. Stephen, Hon. Secy.; H. Hall, Walker, Geo. E. Whiting, J. P. Edwards, J. P. Thompson, James F. Montgomery, Myles McKeon, Alfred B. Campbell, John Wetherill, J. P. George, J. P. Ward, Richard Ward, Hon. Secy., Managing Director.

CHIEF OBJECT OF THE COMPANY: To invest in Freehold properties. To make Advances on Freehold security. To receive Money on Deposit. To erect Houses and Cottages on the Company's Properties to the order of Intending Purchasers.

DEPOSIT BANK DEPARTMENT: Money received, Fixed and Current Deposit, and highest rates of interest given. Fixed and Current Deposit, and highest rates of interest given. Current Deposits may be increased or reduced at the pleasure of depositor, and interest will be allowed on the daily balance of account.

SHARE DEPOSITS, £5 each.

Application will be received for a limited number of Share Deposits, holders of which will participate in profits.

All communications must be addressed "General Manager."

MONEY TO THE N.D. £100,000 STERLING TO LEND UPON FREEHOLD AND IMPROVED LAND PROPERTY, LEASE, OR MORTGAGE, FROM 3 YEARS UPWARDS, INTEREST FROM 6 PER CENT.

ADDRESS.—THE SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL COMPANY, 82, SYDNEY ARCADE, KING-STREET.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT, FINANCE, AND LAND COMPANY, Limited.

Capital—£500,000.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £250,000

RESERVE FUND ... £40,000

HEAD OFFICE—100, Pitt-street, SYDNEY.

RATES OF INTEREST.

Deposits at call, without notice, 5 per cent.

Ditto, at 3 months, 5½ per cent.

Ditto, at 6 months, 5 per cent.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS BEARING INTEREST.

CURRENT or drawing accounts are accepted while trading firm, and are subject to the usual practice of bankers, but with the important exception that interest is allowed on the daily balance at the rate of FIVE PER CENT. per annum.

Payments are operated on by cheque-banks, obtainable at the Office of the Company.

WILLIAM CLARKE, Manager.

THE ADVERTISER, a considerable capital at his disposal, is prepared to make immediate Cash Advances, at an extremely LOW RATE OF INTEREST, on all descriptions of securities, without the necessity of a bill of sale, or any other documents.

With every arrangement to guarantee the discount account of merchants or traders, or will DISCOUNT their trade bills at slight advances on BANK RATES.

All communications strictly private. Confidence, Box 293, General Post Office.

LONDON MORTGAGE, LOAN, AND DISCOUNT COMPANY.

100, Elizabeth-street, next High School.

Oldest established Office in the Colonies.

ADVANCES promptly made upon Bills of Sale (without possession), the security of one or two Householders, Freehold and Leasehold Property, without expense of Mortgage, Legacies, and all available securities.

Bills discounted daily, at lowest rates.

All communications strictly confidential.

Post Office Address: The Secretary. Office hours: 9 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Monday evenings, 6 to 8.

VICTORIAN MORTGAGE, LOAN, AND DISCOUNT COMPANY.

100, Elizabeth-street, next High School.

Oldest established Office in the Colonies.

ADVANCES promptly made upon Bills of Sale (without possession), the security of one or two Householders, Freehold and Leasehold Property, without expense of Mortgage, Legacies, and all available securities.

Bills discounted daily, at lowest rates.

All communications strictly confidential.

Post Office Address: The Secretary. Office hours: 9 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Monday evenings, 6 to 8.

WILLIAM CLARKE, Manager.

These requiring assistance will consult their OWN INTERESTS by applying at the above Offices before going elsewhere.

Persons applying for credit, £100,000, and to any amount.

Office hours: 8 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday evenings, 6 to 8.

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